(d) the main aims and objectives of reconstituting the CABE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The proposal for re-constitution of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), including its composition was considered by the then and successive governments after the expiry of the extended tenure of the last CABE on 31.3.1994, but no final decision could be taken. However, the Government has recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J.C. Pant, former Secretary to the Govt. of India, for evolving an effective mechanism for consultation and coordination with all stakeholders including State Governments, for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects in pursuance of the National Education Policy.

Total Expenditure on Primary Education

1781. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiatives for increasing the total expenditure on primary education in the country, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with the aim of Universalisation of Elementary Education. Under this programme, Districts prepare district Elementary Education plans based on the requirements of a district. In 2002-03, Government of India has approved plans of 592 districts for a total outlay of Rs. 5441 crore.

Literacy in Jharkhand

1782. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy, overall as well as among male and female respectively, in the state of Jharkhand;

(b) how the same compare with current National average; and

(c) steps initiated and/or contemplated, if any, for spreading literacy, especially among the tribal population in the State of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Details of literacy in Jharkhand and national average as per Census, 2001 are as follows:-

(in percentage)

	Persons	Males	Females
Jharkhand	54.13	67.94	39.38
National	65.38	75.85	54.16

(c) To promote adult literacy in the age group of 15-35 years, the Scheme of Literacy Campaigns and Operation Restoration has been taken up throughout the country, including tribal districts. The Centre-State ratio of funding is enhanced to 4:1 for tribal districts, as compared to 2:1 for non-tribal districts. Implementation of the Scheme has already been approved for all districts of Jharkhand and funds are released in a phased manner after fulfillment of procedural requirements by the Zilla Saksharata Samitis.

Special focus for scheduled tribes is also provided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which covers the education requirements of children in the age group of 6-14 years. The initiatives in this regard include:

- Provision of free text books to all SC/ST children at primary and upper primary level upto Rs. 150/- per child,
- provision of context specific innovative interventions for education of SC/ST children upto Rs. 50.00 lakh in a district in a year, with a ceiling of Rs. 15.00 lakh for each intervention,
- special mainstreaming camps for out-of-school SC/ST children under the Alternative and Innovative Education component,
- encouraging community participation among scheduled tribes.